



May 8, 2018

The County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles, CA

RE: Safe, Clean Water for Los Angeles County Residents

Dear Board of Supervisors Member

On behalf of the Long Beach Gray Panthers, I am writing to express our strong support for safe, clean water and the infrastructure to support the creation and transportation of water throughout the County. Thank you for initiating this important action.

The Long Beach Gray Panthers, an organization with 100+ members and over 300 supporters, are supporting the coalition for Safe, Clean, Water in Los Angeles, California. Our concerns stem from fact that Long Beach is the last point for storm water along the Los Angeles River. We have personally witnessed the impacts polluted water has on our community as the trash and toxins dumped into storm drains and the LA River collects on our beaches and in our harbors after a heavy rain. This results in beach closures after almost every rain and impacts the marine life and food sources along our coasts. An efficient, natural water capture and filtration system would increase the amount of clean, safe water available for our community and reduce water costs.

As part of the process, Long Beach Gray Panthers want to see community benefits included in the initiative. Our communities cannot rely on Federal or State Agencies to fund a clean, locally-controlled water supply. We must do this locally. We want to see a system developed that:

- Captures more rainfall to store, clean, and re-use
 - Protects local lakes, rivers, streams, beaches, and the ocean from contamination
 - Uses enhanced natural systems, such as bioswales, trees, and wetlands whenever possible and “greens” alleyways and roofs to create more greenspace, especially in our lower income communities to cool and clean our air and reduce evaporation
 - Uses methods that protects and enhances our current green spaces in parks and reduces the maintenance and cost of water required to keep them green
 - Works with local businesses and industries to create cost-efficient water-capture systems to reduce the amount of water used and pollution created
 - Creates good, green jobs for community residents creating greater equity for low-income communities
 - Reduces flooding of our streets and damage in our communities with heavy storms
 - Increases permeable surfaces and reduces hard surfaces to allow storm water to refresh aquifers
- Aligns with the LA River Restoration Project and other State and local bond programs to create efficiencies and maximize dollars spent

We are proud to support this effort if these community benefits are included.

Sincerely,

Karen Reside

Secretary

CC: rroque@cnrgcalifornia.com

Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell

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